

Appendix I

Planting the Right Tree in the Right Place

Follow these guidelines to make sure that your tree-planting efforts will have lasting value, not only for calming traffic but also for beautifying your street.

- ◆ Before deciding which trees to plant, take a look at the [City Tree List](#). Make sure you plant the best tree for the space, especially under power lines and in the right-of-way (ROW).
- ◆ Then consult with the Knoxville Urban Forester, who provides invaluable advice on the best species of trees for your location, and who can be reached at 865-215-6113 or kkrouse@knoxvilletn.gov.
- ◆ If you are working with other neighbors on your street, coordinate with them so that the Urban Forester does not have to make separate visits for each yard.
- ◆ Do not plant large or medium size trees under power lines. Trees that grow within proximity of utility lines may require trimming for safety and utility reliability, increasing maintenance costs. Utility tree maintenance can be unsightly, and so it is best to plant the right tree in the right location.
- ◆ The City does not restrict property owners from planting in the right-of-way (ROW), but if the wrong plant gets planted, the City does have the right to remove or perform maintenance. Also, you must apply for a permit if you want to plant in an area where the City has made improvements (such as between the sidewalk and street). The Urban Forester can advise on this as well.
- ◆ Be sure to ask the Urban Forester about the right kind of bushes and trees to plant to avoid affecting sight distance when the plants are fully grown. Plantings, shrubs, and trees potentially can block sight distance of vehicles pulling into the street from driveways, parking areas, and side streets. This then causes a hazard to both motorists and pedestrians, and the City can require you to remove such plantings. Avoid this headache by consulting with the Urban Forester in advance.
- ◆ Call Before You Dig! State law requires this. If you dig first and hit a water or gas line, you could be liable for damages and repairs. Call 811 or (800) 351-1111 to schedule someone to come to your yard to mark the location of underground utility lines. Get the details at the Tennessee 811 website at www.tenn811.org.
- ◆ The City plants lots of trees every year, but only on public property. Trees Knoxville, a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the urban tree canopy in both Knoxville and Knox County, periodically gives away free tree seedlings. See the [Trees Knoxville website](#) for more information.